



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 2004
VOL. 51 NO. 24

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was no better than steady in the East, steady elsewhere. Retail demand was light to fair with few features, and food service was slow to moderate, best for fast food. Optimism for first of the month was limited as Lenten season begins. Supplies were usually sufficient, but at least adequate and often discounted in the East. In the parts structure, trading was light to moderate with regular commitments usually sufficient. Tenders were balanced to close, and wings were mixed, but available. Supplies of leg items increased, and interest tapered as export issues remained uncertain and cautious. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were desirable to heavy, but mostly desirable.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 72.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.50 cents last year on February 26, 2003.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	220.50
BREASTS - B/S	193.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	99.50
THIGH MEAT - B/S	124.00
LEG QUARTERS	39.00
WINGS	122.50

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Retail demand was light with mixed opinions for first of the month. Food service demand was fair to moderate, best for fast food promotions. Supplies were usually sufficient with wogs close to short mainly from plant to plant trading. In the parts structure, movement was fair. Tenders were balanced to tight and continued to move well, and the remaining items were at least adequate or available. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was light and unaggressive during midweek trading. Offerings of all sizes were at least adequate with discounting occasionally noted. Movement through retail and distributive channels was slow. The market tone was no better than steady to weak. In the parts complex, breast items and tenders were balanced. Legs and leg quarters were slightly more available as dealers eyed export developments with caution. Wings were sufficient.

MIDWEST The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings mixed, mostly limited for the generally inattentive trade interest. Movement into all channels was light to instances fair overall; instances of fairly good demand into fast food in the Chicago area. Expectations of increased demand were tempered for end of the month and the beginning of religious Lenten season. Floor stocks were closely maintained in accordance with anticipation of tapering demand. Weights remained in a desirable range to trending heavier than desired. Market activity on parts was slow with buyers' cautious and waiting further market developments. Supplies of leg quarters and boneless/skinless breasts were mixed, wings and tenders were in close balance and whole breasts adequate for current interest. Trade sentiment was steady to fully steady on wings and tenderloins, and cautiously steady on the balance.

WESTERN The market tone was steady overall. Offerings were adequate for trade needs. Buying activity was fair. Retailer demand was moderate for whole body and fairly good for parts. Floor stocks were adequate.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES WEEK ENDING 02/21/04	2004	2003	PERCENT CHANGE PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	208,416	204,584	+02
CHICKS PLACED	166,648	164,469	+01

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 208 million eggs in incubators during the week ending February 21, 2004. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

CHICKS PLACED UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 21, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 21, 2004 were 1.34 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 3-Apr-04 is estimated at 154.5 million head. This compares to 154.3 million head the previous week and to 155.4 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 158.2 million head and the composite weighted average pr 57.71cents per pound.

FEBRUARY 24, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	885	182.00-260.00	182-187	184.66
TENDERLOINS	233	195.00-239.00	195-198	200.53
BREAST - LINE RUN	108	96.00-101.00	96-98	98.23
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	93	54.00-58.00	55-56	56.06
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	403	35.00-39.00	35-37	36.12
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	992	38.00-43.00	38-40	39.67
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76
WINGS (CUT)	362	132.00-142.00	132-136	136.30
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	880	182.00-260.00	182-185	184.52
TENDERLOINS	207	195.00-243.00	195-198	202.24
BREAST - LINE RUN	113	96.00-102.00	96-98	98.27
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	113	54.00-58.00	54-56	55.70
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	567	35.00-39.00	36-37	36.38
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,035	38.00-43.00	39-40	39.74
WINGS (WHOLE)	281	119.00-124.00	119-122	121.76
WINGS (CUT)	527	132.00-142.00	134-137	136.31
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE 65.00 - 73.50
TODAY'S AVERAGE 69.97

RANGE 65.50 - 72.50
TODAY'S AVERAGE 69.65
5-DAY AVERAGE 69.42

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was cautious and selective as buyers saw no need to extend floor stocks beyond normal commitments. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were in good balance. Bone-in breasts were adequate to balanced. Legs and leg quarters had increased in availability as dealers eyed export developments with caution. B/s thigh meat was clearing well. Wings were generally adequate. Retail and distributive movement was light. The market tone was fully steady on boneless-skinless breasts and tenderloins, no better than steady on legs and leg quarters; mostly steady on the balance.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. FEBRUARY 24, 2004

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	185	182.99	740,779
TENDERLOINS	195	174.34	139,800
BREAST - WITH RIBS	95-96	102.00	208,680
BREAST - LINE RUN	95	98.31	100,360
LEGS	47-48	52.82	392,680
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	38.23	517,930
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	47.38	129,060
THIGHS	41-42	49.62	48,940
B/S THIGHS	115-116	115.03	71,790
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	120.96	144,030
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.85	24,480
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	34.46	20,365
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.16	24,300

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	185	185.77	566,381
TENDERLOINS	195-200	185.86	122,480
BREAST - WITH RIBS	96-97	102.65	149,440
BREAST - LINE RUN	96	97.47	112,080
LEGS	47-48	51.63	407,041
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	38-39	39.03	324,825
DRUMSTICKS	40-41	46.89	137,920
THIGHS	42-43	49.63	48,920
B/S THIGHS	116-117	117.20	85,240
WINGS (WHOLE)	114-115	123.31	113,680
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.93	40,280
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	36.84	11,200
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.78	20,440

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WTS	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	02/25	02/24	02/23	02/20	02/18
ALA	3,950	3,939	3,730	3,767	5.10
ARK	5,303	5,228	5,254	5,100	5.06
DELMARVA	2,185	2,189	2,214	2,112	5.42
KY-LA-TN	2,027	1,970	1,990	1,877	5.08
MISS	3,086	3,124	3,061	2,838	5.11
NC	2,374	2,400	2,384	2,474	6.38
TEXAS	2,222	2,037	2,061	1,980	5.26
TOTAL	21,147	20,887	20,694	20,148	5.29
MON-WED 63,112(A)					5.19
					20,678
					5.27
					60,837 (A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 25-Feb is estimated to be 31,638,000 up 2.0 percent from a week ago and up 11.0 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,029,000; last year 28,501,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	93-99
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	71-77
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS	
FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK 102-103
	DRY PACK 104-106
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK 109
	DRY PACK 105
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK 93
	DRY PACK 93-95
DUCKS	152-175

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 28-FEB-04

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/28/04 (1)	02/21/04
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	157,143 (2)	156,084
LT HENS	1,295	1,259
HVY HENS	1,376	1,399
CHECK TOTAL	159,814	158,742

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 28-Feb-04 is 156.8 million head compared to 150.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 157.5 million head or 0.7 million more than estimated available. For week of 06-Mar-04 the estimated available is 156.2 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 02/23/04	163,751	40,589
AM 02/01/04	141,357	40,964
CHG	22,394	-375
PCT CHG	16	-1

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/23/04	02/16/04	02/24/03	02/23/04	02/16/04	02/24/03
PACIFIC						
COAST	6,236	6,240	7,161	4,029	4,154	6,897
LOS						
ANGELES	442	446	1,390	1,953	2,163	3,845

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23, 2004

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	66-71
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	68-78

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/24/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.60	.85	.68	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	3.50	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	1.35	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	1.50	9.75	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	.20	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	6.25	8.00	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	-	-	-
ROOSTERS lb.	1.00	1.85	1.42	ROOSTERS ea.	5.50	6.75	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	.35	.60	.46	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	1.20	1.35	1.28	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	1.15	1.55	1.36	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	3.00	6.75	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	5.50	10.25	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	126						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 20, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs w/ Thighs	Necks, Back Livers/ & Wings	Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	60.64	124.61	74.77	12.46	12.46	54.00
High	62.31	132.92	83.07	20.77	16.61	54.00
Mostly	60.64	132.92	83.07	16.61	16.61	54.00
SAN JUAN						
Low	60.23	124.61	74.77	12.46	12.46	54.00
High	61.47	132.92	83.07	16.61	16.61	54.00
Mostly	60.64	124.61	74.77	12.46	12.46	54.00
NEW SAN JUAN						
Low	60.23	124.61	74.77	12.46	12.46	54.00
High	61.47	132.92	83.07	20.77	16.61	54.00
Mostly	60.64	132.92	83.07	16.61	12.46	54.00
BECERRA						
Low	60.64	124.61	74.77	12.46	12.46	56.07
High	62.31	132.92	83.07	16.61	20.77	56.07
Mostly	60.64	132.92	83.07	16.61	16.61	56.07

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds remained generally slow, typical of both the season and normal mid-week activity. Offerings were fully adequate to ample. Live supplies were moderate; weights were mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 77 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was steady to weak. Breast items continued to clear satisfactorily. Thighs were in good balance. Other leg cuts were fully adequate to ample and attracting little buyer interest. Wings were irregularly balanced.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	68-88
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	80.32
NO. OF BOXES	5,488

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

.....
**USDA, AMS, POULTRY PROGRAMS,
 POULTRY MARKET NEWS OFFICES**

Washington, DC	Voice	(202)720-6911	Mike Sheats
	Fax	(202)720-2403	(Chief)
Atlanta, GA	Voice	(404)562-5850	Johnny Freeman
	Fax	(404)562-5875	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(404)562-5856	
Jackson, MS	Voice	(601)965-4662	Gary Brown
	Fax	(601)965-4661	(Southern States Area Supervisor)
Des Moines, IA	Voice	(515)284-4471	Mary L. Adkins
	Fax	(515)284-4468	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(515)284-4545	
Los Angeles, CA	Voice	(213)534-1330	Jim Derby
	Fax	(213)534-1333	(Officer-In-Charge)
	Recorded	(213)534-1335	